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| APPLICATION NO.                                                             | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/893,823                                                                  | 06/28/2001  | Todd M. VanDenAvond  | 56729USA4A.002      | 5306             |
| 32692                                                                       | 7590        | 10/12/2006           | EXAMINER            |                  |
| 3M INNOVATIVE PROPERTIES COMPANY<br>PO BOX 33427<br>ST. PAUL, MN 55133-3427 |             |                      | SHERR, CRISTINA O   |                  |
|                                                                             |             |                      | ART UNIT            | PAPER NUMBER     |
|                                                                             |             |                      | 3621                |                  |

DATE MAILED: 10/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Best Available Copy

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/893,823

Applicant(s)

VANDENAVOND ET AL.

Examiner

Cristina Owen Sherr

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 July 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 24-30 and 48-56 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 24-30 and 48-56 is/are rejected. Cristina Owen Sherr, 3621
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 07/19/06.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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### DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is in response to applicant's amendment filed July 19, 2006.

Claims 24, 48, 51, and 54 have been amended. Claims 24-30 and 48-56 are currently pending in this case.

#### **Information Disclosure Statement**

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on July 19, 2006 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the examiner is considering the information disclosure statement.

#### **Response to Arguments**

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 24-30 and 48-56 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

#### **Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103**

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 24-30, 48, 51, 54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bozich et al (US 6,748,285) in view of Irons et al (US 6,744,936).

6. Regarding claim 24 –

Bozich discloses a management software system comprising a database storing configuration data (e.g. col 2 ln 15-30) defining an organization having a number of business units and manufacturing facilities (e.g. col 2 ln 30-45), wherein the

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management system creates a record associated with one of the business units (e.g. col 3 ln 50-65).

Bozich does not specifically create labels but rather packaging for products. Irons, however, does create and selectively prints a label or other graphics at one of the manufacturing facilities based on the label record and the associated business units (e.g. col 6 ln 10-30). It would be obvious to combine the teachings of Bozich and Irons in order to facilitate label management for packages.

7. Regarding claim 25 –

Bozich discloses the system of claim 24, wherein the database stores configuration data defining a number of packaging levels, and further wherein the label record designates at least one of the packaging levels (e.g. col 2 ln 15-30).

8. Regarding claim 26 –

Bozich discloses the management system of claim 24, wherein the management system further comprises: a record manager to create the record from a template and data; and an output manager to control the printing upon authorizing a user having access rights to print. (E.g. col 3 ln 50-65).

9. Bozich does not specifically create labels but rather packaging for products.

Irons, however, does create and selectively prints a label or other graphics at one of the manufacturing facilities based on the label record and the associated business units (e.g. col 1 ln 11-18). It would be obvious to combine the teachings of Bozich and Irons in order to facilitate label management for packages.

10. Regarding claim 27 –

Bozich discloses the management system of claim 24, wherein the management system further comprises: a record manager to create the record from a template and

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Bozich discloses a method comprising: storing configuration data defining a number of business units and manufacturing facilities; storing records and corresponding data; associating the records with the business units; selecting one of the records; and printing at one of the manufacturing facilities according to the selected label record and the associated business unit. (e.g. col 3 ln 50-65).

11. Bozich does not specifically create labels but rather packaging for products. Irons, however, does create and selectively prints a label or other graphics at one of the manufacturing facilities based on the label record and the associated business units (e.g. col 6 ln 10-30). It would be obvious to combine the teachings of Bozich and Irons in order to facilitate label management for packages.

12. Regarding claim 28 –

Bozich discloses the method of claim 27, further comprising: storing configuration data defining a number of packaging levels; and associating each record with a packaging level (e.g. col 2 ln 15-30).

13. Regarding claim 29 –

Bozich discloses the method of claim 27, further comprising associating a number of records to form a set of related records. (e.g. col 2 ln 15-30).

14. Regarding claim 30 –

Bozich discloses the method of claim 29, further comprising graphically illustrating the packaging levels associated with the set of related records. (e.g. col 3 ln 50-65).

15. As above, Bozich does not specifically create labels but rather packaging for products. Irons, however, does create and selectively prints a label or other graphics at

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one of the manufacturing facilities based on the label record and the associated business units (e.g. col 6 ln 10-30). It would be obvious to combine the teachings of Bozich and Irons in order to facilitate label management for packages.

16. Regarding claim 48 –

Bozich discloses a management software system comprising a database storing configuration data defining plurality of organizations, each organization having at least one group and at least one output location; and a plurality of software modules executing on computing devices coupled to the database, wherein the software modules presenting an interface by which authorized users of the groups create records, and selectively print at the corresponding output location for the organizations. (e.g. col 3 ln 50-65).

17. As above, Bozich does not specifically create labels but rather packaging for products. Irons, however, does create and selectively prints a label or other graphics at one of the manufacturing facilities based on the label record and the associated business units (e.g. col 6 ln 10-30). It would be obvious to combine the teachings of Bozich and Irons in order to facilitate label management for packages.

18. Regarding claim 51 –

Bozich discloses a method of providing a management service comprising: storing configuration data defining plurality of organizations, each organization having at least one group and at least one output location; presenting an interface by which each authorized users of the groups create records; and in response to input from the users,

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selectively printing at the corresponding output locations for the organizations (e.g. col 3 In 50-65).

19. As above, Bozich does not specifically create labels but rather packaging for products. Irons, however, does create and selectively prints a label or other graphics at one of the manufacturing facilities based on the label record and the associated business units (e.g. col 6 In 10-30). It would be obvious to combine the teachings of Bozich and Irons in order to facilitate label management for packages.

20. Regarding claim 54 –

Bozich discloses a computer-readable medium comprising instructions for causing a processor to: store configuration data defining plurality of organizations, each organization having at least one group and at least one output location; present an interface for by which each organization creates corresponding records; and selectively print at the corresponding output locations for the organizations (e.g. col 3 In 50-65).

21. As above, Bozich does not specifically create labels but rather packaging for products. Irons, however, does create and selectively prints a label or other graphics at one of the manufacturing facilities based on the label record and the associated business units (e.g. col 6 In 10-30). It would be obvious to combine the teachings of Bozich and Irons in order to facilitate label management for packages.

22. Claims 49-50, 52-53, 55-56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bozich et al (US 6,748,285) in view of Irons (US 6,744,936) further in view of Serrano-Morales (2002/0049715).

selectively print at the corresponding output locations for the organizations (e.g. col 3 In

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23. Regarding claim 49 –

Serrano-Morales discloses a management system wherein the software modules calculate fees for each organization and record the fees within the database (e.g. col 4 In 20-35).

24. Regarding claim 50 –

Serrano-Morales discloses a management system wherein the software modules calculate fees for the organizations based at least one of (a) a number of accesses by each organization, (b) a number of label records and label templates stored by each organization, and (c) a subscription fee (e.g. col 4 In 20-35).

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25. It would be obvious to combine the teachings of Bozich, Irons and Serrano-Morales, in order to be able to easily bill for use.

26. Regarding claim 52 –

Serrano-Morales discloses calculating fees for each organization and recording the fees within a database (e.g. col 4 In 30-45).

27. Regarding claim 53 –

Serrano-Morales discloses calculating fees based on at least one of (a) a number of accesses by each organization, (b) a number of label records and label templates stored by each organization, and (c) a subscription fee (e.g. col 4 In 20-35).

28. It would be obvious to combine the teachings of Bozich, Irons and Serrano-Morales, in order to be able to easily bill for use.

29. Regarding claim 55 –



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Serrano-Morales discloses instructions for causing a processor to calculate fees for each organization and recording the fees within a database (e.g. col 4 ln 50-65).

30. Regarding claim 56 –

Serrano –Morales discloses instructions for causing a processor to calculate fees based at least one of (a) a number of accesses by each, organization, (b) a number of label records and label templates stored by each organization, and (c) a subscription fee (e.g. col 4 ln 20-35).

31. It would be obvious to combine the teachings of Bozich, Irons and Serrano-Morales, in order to be able to easily bill for use.

32. Examiner's note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may be applied as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

### **Conclusion**

33. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cristina Owen Sherr whose telephone number is 571-272-6711. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00 Monday through Friday.

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32. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew J. Fischer can be reached on 571-272-6779. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

33. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Cristina Owen Sherr  
Patent Examiner, AU 3621



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